Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams Presents

ROAD MAPPING FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS
INFORMATION FOR INSPIRATION

Get the map
Plan the route
Start the journey

Become informed on the services available to you and your child

ERIC L. ADAMS
Brooklyn Borough President
Message from Borough President
Eric L. Adams

I believe information is the cornerstone of every family decision and building One Brooklyn.

Too many times children with disabilities do not receive the services they need, as their parents are unaware of the services available to them or the sometimes-lengthy process of acquiring those services.

It is with this in mind that I have coordinated this Road Map for Parent of Children with Special Needs.

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This Road Map for Parents of Children with Special Needs is a resource to help you, the parent, family and community better understand the services available to your child, young adult or adult with special needs.

Children with special needs may have an illness or condition for which they need extra health care and support services. These children might have a serious or long-lasting physical condition, sensory, intellectual or developmental disability, and behavioral or emotional condition.

It is not a comprehensive guide to all services available, but instead a “Key Services” guide that will help you have a knowledgeable conversation with your child’s primary care physician, case manager or service coordinator, to better ensure they have the best quality of life.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
• Basic services available to your child with special needs
• Planning ahead
• Resources
If you are in need of services, it is possible to obtain those services funded through a program called a Medicaid Waiver.

Waiver programs for children in New York State include:

- Care at Home
- Home and Community Services
- Bridges to Health

To obtain a Medicaid Waiver contact:

New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD)

OPWDD Brooklyn’s Developmental Disability Regional Office
888 Fountain Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11208
718-642-6300

You must first attend OPWDD Front Door which identifies support needs and eligibility for services or

Resources for Children with Special Needs
116 East 16th Street, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10003
212-667-6650

It all starts here!
Early Childhood Direction Centers (ECDC) provide free confidential information, training and referral for families about services for young children diagnosed or suspected of having special needs from birth to five years of age.

Brooklyn’s ECDC
160 Lawrence Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11230
718-437-3794

New York City Department of Education District 75 provides citywide educational, vocational, and behavior support programs for students with special needs.

After you child ages out, think of:

**Adult Day Service** supports people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities, traumatic brain injuries, and autism spectrum disorders in overcoming the challenges they face to live a self-determined and meaningful life in the community.

**Day Habilitation** offers activities and opportunities designed to develop or maintain skills such as: communication and language development, money management, social relationships, health and safety skills, and personal care.
Many technical **Colleges**, traditional 2-year, and 4-year colleges offer educational opportunities for students with disabilities to continue their education. Many have ancillary services such as tutoring assistance, housing, etc. for disabled students. Contact the Student Services Office at the school your student may wish to apply.

**Employment** Adult Career and Continuing Education Services - Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR), is part of the New York State Education Department that assists individuals with disabilities to obtain and maintain employment.

Brooklyn ACCES-VR  
55 Hanson Place  
Brooklyn, NY 11217  
718-722-6700

**Vocational Training** allows persons with disabilities the opportunity to work in jobs within their communities. Counselor’s guide and train individuals through service programs, which are needed to reach their employment goals.

Community based organizations can provide adaptive technology needed to perform job duties.
FAMILY RESOURCES

Advocacy organizations help parents with their legal rights, negotiate on their behalf and represent them in administrative hearings to obtain the services their children need.

Charities may provide donations of baby supplies, medical equipment as well as financial assistance. Some examples of Fraternal Organizations are the Lions Club, Rotary Club and Elks Club.

Child Care is labeled as emotional, behavioral, physical, or personal needs of a child requiring more than the usual amount of care and supervision for the child’s age as documented by a physician, psychologist, special educator, or other qualified professional.

Food and Nutrition resources are available to you through Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP formally known as food stamps) and food pantries.

You can find a list of food pantries on the Borough Presidents website

Reimbursements apply to goods and services that benefit the child with special needs. There is no guarantee that a family will be granted the requested funds. Amounts generally do not exceed $500 per year and must receive prior approval.
If eligible, you may qualify for a reduction in your utility bills.

- Con Ed
- National Grid
- Phone

Did you know that your electric or gas cannot be turned off in the winter months?
Having your child’s healthcare needs be met by a primary care physician that specializes in treating children with special needs allows greater access and faster delivery of services.

Article 16 clinics are approved by the New York State OPWDD to provide long-term care.

Article 28 clinics can be located in a hospital or non-hospital setting. These are licensed by the New York State Department of Health.

SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Medical
- Dental
- Speech and language pathology
- Audiology
- Physical therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Psychology
- Dietetics and nutrition
- Podiatry
HOUSING

There are housing options available to your child. Discuss with your child’s primary care physician about the need for home care services.

To apply for home care services:

Step 1) M11Q form must be filled out by your child’s Primary Care Physician

Step 2) The Primary Care Physician must forward the M11Q to ACS Family Home Care intake division

ACS Family Home Care Services
150 William Street, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10038

Step 3) ACS Family Home Care intake division local field office will contact you for home visit to determine needs.

Residential Placement is offered through the state or a non-profit agency that owns or leases a home certified by OPWDD.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENT:

• Intermediate Care Facility
• Community Residence
• Individual Residential Alternative
• Supportive Apartments

Residential placement provides 24 hour or visiting staff assistance.

Average wait time for housing is 5-10 years.
Various programs and services for individuals with special needs are provided by community agencies. When working with community-based agencies, ask if case managers or service coordinators can provide you with eligibility requirements, program availability, referrals, and applications for support services.

Adaptive Technology is an umbrella term that includes assistive, adaptive, and rehabilitative devices for people with disabilities and also includes the process in selecting, locating, and using them. Examples include phones with text, speech recognition software, cars with lifts, and extra-large keyboards.

Behavioral and Emotional services include individualized care coordination, case management, crisis response services, and intensive in home services, respite, family support services, and skill building services.

All referrals for the home and community based waiver must be made through Children’s CSPOA 1-888-277-6258.

Environmental Modification in the home and community are done to increase safety and independence. They can include grab bars in bathrooms, wider doorways, and wheelchair ramps.
Recreation helps individuals with a physical condition, sensory, intellectual or developmental disability and behavioral or emotional condition develop and enhance their health, functional abilities, independence, and quality of life.

Sensory Gyms for example provide activities to help children with sensory processing disorders.

Service Coordination/Case Management help families’ access services to meet their children’s needs such as occupational, speech, physical therapy, and/or recreational services.

You will obtain a case manager/service coordinator once you obtain a Medicaid Waiver.
There are multiple safe and affordable public and private transportation opportunities for people with disabilities in New York City.

NYC Half Fare/Reduced-Fare Metro Cards are available for people with a qualifying disability.

MTA New York City Transit operates Access-A-Ride that provides transportation for people with disabilities who are unable to use public bus or subway service for some or all of their trips.

Borough President Eric L. Adams
Constituent Assistance Center
718-802-3777

A Ride for All provides accessible Wheelchair vans for those with disabilities. Vans are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

When you are accompanying a person with a disability on a NTC train, bus or Access a Ride you are considered the Personal Care Attendant and should not be paying a fare.

A Special Parking Permit allows you transport a person with special needs.

NYC Department of Transportation
28-11 Queens Plaza N. 8th Floor
Long Island City, NY
718-483-3100